

FIGURE AMENDMENTS:

Kindly replace figures 8 and 9 with the enclosed replacement sheet.

Remarks

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing every feature specified in the claims, referring to the mutual separation between deflecting disks along the shaft of claim 14 as well as the guide members on which open sides of cup shaped depressions in the bottom sheet are disposed, as recited in claim 16. With regard to claim 14, the Examiner is referred to amended figure 8 in which arrows have been added in order to illustrate the displaceability of the deflecting disks. With regard to claim 16, the Applicant has amended that claim to eliminate explicit recitation of the open side of the cup shaped depressions in the bottom sheet by specifying that the guide elements are structured to provide such a support. Review and acceptance is requested.

The Examiner has objected to the specification due to improper recitation of "claim 1" in lines 16 and 17 of page 3. In response thereto, this paragraph has been amended accordingly.

Claims 9 through 16 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Romagnoli '922 in view of Wilson '921. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejections for the following reasons.

'922 discloses a blister machine having a continuously operating sealing station C and a cycled or intermediately operated punching station D. The sealing station C has an associated continuously driven transport roller 7 with which the blister band is continuously passed through the sealing station C. An intermediately driven transport roller 8, disposed downstream of the sealing station C, guides the blister band through the punching station D in a cycled fashion. The blister band assumes the

shape of a loosely held loop between the rollers 7 and 8, wherein the transport differences or transport speeds of the rollers 7 and 8 are adjusted to each other in such a fashion that, at an end of a predetermined time period, the blister band is moved by a constant amount. The loop therefore provides slack for temporary compensation of the differences in motion.

In contrast thereto, the claimed invention is directed towards a continuously operated filling station and discontinuously operating sealing station. Even if one of average skill in the art were to replace the cycled punching station of '922 with a sealing station and the continuously working sealing station of '922 with a filling station, one would still not arrive at the limitations of the invention as claimed, since the invention provides for two discontinuously working drives which cooperate to effect constant, continuously transport motion at the filling station, as illustrated in figures 6a through 6c of the invention.

The Examiner combines the teachings of '922 with the reference due to Wilson '921 citing, in particular, the roller 24. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the position taken by the Examiner that the roller 24 is disposed between the filling station 30 and the sealing station 58 or 62. The Applicant submits that the roller is upstream of the filling station. Moreover, the Examiner's attention is directed to column 3, lines 4 through 19 of the '921 reference. Herein Wilson states that the purpose of the roller 24 is to compensate for stretching of the base sheet which prevents registering with the depressions of the roller. This register shift is detected by a sensor 224 located adjacent to a drive roller to sense the positions of the blisters and to provide a signal for displacement of roller 24 in order to align registration. Therefore, Wilson does not propose

cooperation between discontinuous motions of two rollers, as claimed in the instant invention, rather an adjustment of the motion of one roller in response to signals of a sensor. Since the distortions of the band will generally be non-linear, the sum of motions created by the roller 24 and other transport rollers must generally exhibit a non-constant velocity. This contrasts with the teachings of the instant invention.

For the reasons given, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application is sufficiently distinguished from the prior art of reference to satisfy the conditions for patenting in the United States. The dependent claims inherit the limitations of the allowable base claim and are similarly distinguished from the prior art of record for the reasons given. Passage to issuance is therefore requested.

No new matter has been added in this amendment.

9

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

Enclosures:

Amended figure 8 with figure 9 on a replacement sheet

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